File PM 697 Canada

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March 13, 1981

REC'D MAR 16 1981

DUE DATE 5-20-81 / SA17
DOCKETED 3-16-81 / C17
NOTED

POUCH MAIL

Mrs. Susan A. Hutcheson
Philip Morris Incorporated
Research Center, P.O. Box 26583
Richmond, Virginia 23261

Re: Our File 582-847 Canada PM 697

Dear Susan:

We have been advised by our agents that the above-identified application has been rejected over British Patent 1,331,640 to Frederickson et al. The rejection states:

> "Claim 7 is rejected for being unpatentable in view of the Frederickson disclosure of a tobacco expansion process comprising the steps of impregnating the tobacco with a compound capable of liberating a gas and heating the impregnated tobacco to release gas."

In addition, the claims have been rejected as involving a plurality of inventions, specifically Claims 1-6 and Claims 7-11.

For your information we have enclosed a copy of the claims pending in this case. Please let us know whether you wish us to simply cancel Claims 7-11, whether you wish

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us to argue patentability of Claim 7 and/or whether you wish us to amend Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 7 to overcome the disunity rejection. Note that Claims 7-11 have been rejected in a number of countries.

A response to this Office Action is due May 20. Therefore, please let us have you comments in time to permit us to forward your instructions to our agents.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Gillis

TMG/ds
Encl.

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